

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LUIS V. GUTIÉRREZ

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 27, 2018

Mr. GUTIÉRREZ. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably absent in the House chamber for Roll Call votes 291, 292, 293, 294 and 295 on Tuesday, June 26, 2018. Had I been present, I would have voted Nay on Roll Call votes 291, 292, 294 and 295. I would have voted Yea on Roll Call vote 293.

BORDER SECURITY AND IMMIGRATION REFORM ACT OF 2018

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 21, 2018

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong opposition of H.R. 6136, the "Border Security and Immigration Reform Act of 2018."

This so-called compromise is anything but a compromise. There was not even a markup in the Judiciary Committee; only secret meetings with Administration officials known to author the worst immigration policy this nation has witnessed.

Perhaps H.R. 6136 was an attempt at compromising amongst the various factions that currently divide the majority and prevent Congress from accomplishing meaningful immigration reform.

But this "compromise" is a sham. H.R. 6136:

- fails to cover Dreamers;
- fails to provide a certain path to citizenship;
- claims to "end" Trump's family separation policy by requiring long-term detention;
- revokes critical protections for detained children and families;
- makes deep cuts to legal family immigration;
- revokes the approvals of over 3 million family members who have been waiting for years to legally reunify with U.S. citizens;
- eliminates important asylum protections;
- ends the Diversity Visa program,
- makes immigrant communities less safe by forcing cooperation with immigration detainers.

At every step, this bill attacks family unity, immigrant communities, and common decency.

The United States of America is and will always be the land of opportunity, refuge, and safe haven for all.

The current Administration's policies of closing our doors and borders, by forcibly tearing apart families and eliminating lawful means of entering the United States, are simply inhumane.

H.R. 6136 would act as an overall deterrent to immigrants and people around the world finding refuge and opportunity here in the United States.

The bill would prevent many asylum seekers from even applying for asylum, and would eliminate the Diversity Visa Program, which has traditionally sent a diverse pool of educated immigrants who have contributed to America's success.

Moreover, the bill would needlessly attack sanctuary cities and immigrant communities,

and would invest billions of dollars in President Trump's unnecessary border wall and military technology along the border.

Overall, the bill would simply dismantle families, detain innocent immigrants and children for prolonged, indefinite amounts of time, and closes our border and walls to people around the world who are ready to contribute to the American dream.

This is not what America is or has ever been. Our diverse nation was built by immigrants coming here to build for themselves and their families, along with other communities.

By adopting this bill, America would be acting inconsistent with its core values, and contrary to its reputation as the world's most generous and welcoming nation.

And for those reasons, I urge my colleagues to stand in opposition to H.R. 6136, the "Border Security and Immigration Reform Act of 2018."

COMMEMORATING THE FIFTIETH SEASON OF THE KANSAS CITY ROYALS AND THE HISTORY OF BASEBALL IN KANSAS CITY

HON. EMANUEL CLEAVER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 27, 2018

Mr. CLEAVER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the 50th season of the Kansas City Royals baseball team and the dedication of their fans. Fifty years ago, the Athletics were officially transferred to Oakland California, leaving Kansas City without a Major League Baseball team. With a legacy and tradition of the All-American pastime serving as one of the foundational elements of Kansas City, it was essential that they worked quickly to fill this void with a new team. Although the Major League Baseball owners had approved an expansion club for the city, there was a potential for delay. It was the quick action of then-Senator Stuart Symington that threatened Congressional action that would usher in the next generation of KC baseball—The Royals.

As many of you are aware, Kansas City has a rich history of contributions to America's favorite pastime. Starting as early as 1884, the Kansas City Cowboys threw the first pitch as the first professional baseball team to represent the municipality. Although the KC Cowboys only fielded a team for one season, the Kansas City Blues immediately followed as one of the original eight founding members of the American Association, a minor league baseball association. This initial Kansas City team influenced many "greats" through the league until 1954. Yielding notable alumni players and managers, one of unique merit being Mickey Mantle.

Concurrently, in 1920 the Kansas City Monarchs, one of the initial teams that formed the Negro National League, launched its first team. As men came home from World War I, entrepreneur and former pitcher, J.L. Wilkinson, brought together a team of multi-racial players that eventually became known as the KC Monarchs. Claiming 12 league titles and two Negro World Series titles, the Monarchs would commonly lead the league as a major contender. Stars from these Monarch teams included baseball legends and Hall of

Famers like Satchel Paige, Jackie Robinson, Ernie Banks, Willard Brown, and Buck O'Neil.

The Kansas City Blues and Monarchs lead Kansas City in its original baseball fandom, eventually resulting in the establishment of the city's first stadium in 1923. Known initially as Muehlebach Field, the stadium is rooted adjacent to the Historic 18th and Vine Jazz District. This stadium would change hands several times; however, in the early 1950's, a wealthy real estate developer purchased the stadium, as well as the Philadelphia Athletics, with the goal of bringing a major league team back to Kansas City. Eventually, it was sold to Kansas City, Missouri. Encouraged by fans to step up to the plate and expand the venue to hold some 30,000 fans each game, the city agreed to bring the newly named Kansas City Athletics to Municipal Stadium.

After only 90 days of reconstruction, the new stadium would be debuted to a sold-out crowd. Independence native and former President of the United States, Harry S. Truman threw out the first pitch in 1955. Kansas City would be victorious on that day, defeating the Detroit Tigers in an 8-2 bout. Following their victorious debut, the Athletics would continue to draw enormous crowds, making Kansas City baseball attendance third behind only the illustrious Yankees and Milwaukee Braves. Ultimately, the Kansas City Athletics would go through many changes, leading fans on a topsy-turvy ride with various owners, uniforms, mascots, team colors, and even names of the team. Inevitably, the owner at the time, Charles "Charlie" O. Finley, decided to move the team in 1967.

Although the Athletics left in 1968, Kansas City baseball fans didn't give up on the sport, as voters approved a bond issue to construct a new baseball stadium. With the roar and threat of Missouri's U.S. Senator Stuart Symington, Major League Baseball was forced to ensure that a team would be in Kansas City no later than 1969. Local entrepreneur Ewing Kauffman won the contentious bid as the new team's owner and joined a local committee to crown the team as the Kansas City Royals, in recognition of the region's historic livestock economy and thriving American Royal livestock show that has a legacy dating back to the late 19th century. Although Kansas City's hometown team would not only be based on a hometown history, the design of the team's logo would be furthermore iconized by an artist, Shannon Manning, from another Kansas City original: Hallmark Cards.

The Kansas City Royals were fated for greatness as the new team took the field in their new stadium. With the 1969 Rookie of the Year Lou Piniella on the Royal's side, the Minnesota Twins were destined for defeat. In a 4-3 win after 12 innings, the Royals truly earned their crown that night. Furthermore, the team would go on to field some of Major League Baseball's premier players including: five-time allstar and three-time golden glove winner Amos Otis, Hispanic Heritage Baseball Museum's Hall of Famer and five-time all-star Octavio Victor "Cookie" Rojas, twotime all-star Steven Lee "Buzz" Busby, legendary manager Dorrel Norman Elvert "Whitey" Herzog, and many more.

In 1980, famed Royal slugger George Brett led the Royals to their first American League Pennant. Finally defeating the Yankees, the Royals triumphed over a bitter rival that had defeated them three consecutive seasons in

the American League Championship Series for a pennant win. This was the first year the Royals took the field in search for a World Series title. Unfortunately, the Royals would lose the nail-biting seven game series. However, that defeat only prompted Brett to drive the team further. In 1983, Brett hit a two-run homer in the top of the 9th inning to put the Royals in the lead over the Yankees only to be called out on a technicality, prompting Brett to storm the field in raging protest. "The Pine Tar Incident," as it would be known from that point forward, would forever be hailed in baseball history, even inspiring song-writer Lorde to draft a song about Brett's reaction to being tossed out of the game. The Royals were making their mark on baseball history and the fans were cheering them on along the way.

In 1985, during the I-70 Series Showdown against the St. Louis Cardinals, KC's Bret Saberhagen and the all-star team finally brought home the Commissioners Trophy. Royal's stars such as Frank White, Willie Wilson, Dan Quisenberry, and many others mounted a comeback rarely seen in baseball, roaring back from a 3-1 series deficit. The Royals would have many ups and downs before they would win another pennant or be crowned as World Series champions; however, they continued to energize fans with greats such as: Bo Jackson, Carlos Beltran, Mike Sweeney, and many more. In 2014, the Royals would once again take their shot at the World Series. As fans continued to "believe" in the Royals, their eyes were glued to their screens as our boys in blue raced towards the post-season for the first time in nearly 30 years. In a stunning wild-card clinch, the Royals boasted a crowd-inspiring winning streak, winning eight consecutive games and securing their place as American League Champions. They went on to face the San Francisco Giants in their first World Series appearance since 1985. Sadly, our star-studded team fell in seven games, but continued to remind fans that we would be "forever Royal."

Just as the sun sets, it is sure to rise the next morning. Therefore, as the next season began, the Royals—lead by all-star and fan favorites like Eric Hosmer, Mike Moustakas, Salvador "Salvy" Perez, Alex Gordon, and Lorenzo Cain—would yet again drive us towards another pennant win. With an even more focused effort, the Royals would head into the All-Star break, with the best record in the American league. Based primarily on the momentum from fans and experience from the previous season, the Royals won another American League Pennant and were heading back to the World Series to face the New York Mets. This time, the Royals secured their crown in only five games, solidifying their victory with a Game 5 rally to tie in the 9th inning and a five-run smattering in the 12th inning. This year, the Royals returned home with their second Commissioner's Trophy.

Like many cities across the country, the Royals dawned their crown and headed toward main street for their victory day parade. Like every other parade, they were welcomed by firetrucks, marching bands, trolleys, and floats. However, as the parade route came to close at the crossroads of the Historic Union Station and the National World I Museum and Memorial, our boys in blue were welcomed by nearly 800,000 cheering fans celebrating a city-wide victory and uniting people across all spectrums. On this day, I believe, every base-

ball fan across the country was cheering for the Royals.

Mr. Speaker, please join with me as we commemorate the 50th Anniversary season of the Kansas City Royals. The historic contributions of Kansas City's commitment to baseball will live on through our legacy and as we continue to inspire the next generation baseball fans.

ENDANGERED SALMON AND FISHERIES PREDATION PREVENTION ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. SUZANNE BONAMICI

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 26, 2018

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2083) to amend the Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972 to reduce predation on endangered Columbia River salmon and other non-listed species, and for other purposes:

Ms. BONAMICI. Mr. Chair, I rise today in support of H.R. 2083, the Endangered Salmon and Fisheries Predation Prevention Act. This bill will help reduce sea lion predation on threatened and endangered fish populations.

Salmon and steelhead are an important part of our heritage in the Pacific Northwest, and they are facing devastating threats. At present thirteen salmon and steelhead populations in the Columbia River, Willamette River, and Snake River systems are listed as threatened or endangered under the Endangered Species Act. Because of successful conservation efforts under the protection of the Marine Mammal Protection Act, California sea lions have fully rebounded and have reached carrying capacity. Many of the thriving species are moving up the Columbia River for easy access to migrating salmon and steelhead. According to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, between 2002 and 2015 California sea lions consumed an estimated 46,000 salmonids within a quarter mile of the Bonneville Dam. It is unlikely that we will see the necessary recovery of threatened and endangered fish populations without responding to the ongoing predation by sea lions in the region.

Oregon's economic vitality relies on the health of the Pacific Ocean and the Columbia River. The natural resources in our region support a significant portion of our economy, and we are very vulnerable to changes to our ecosystem. Healthy salmon and steelhead runs support the commercial and recreational fishing industry, guiding and outdoor retail businesses, restaurants, and coastal communities that benefit from tourism. In addition to the troubling effects on the region's ecosystem, sea lion predation is harmful to tribal fisheries. Tribes have fishing rights and a deep cultural and historical connection to the fish populations threatened by sea lions. The health of native fish runs is dependent on Congressional action to protect these threatened species from sea lion predation.

This bill will allow for more efficient intervention by allowing states and tribes to apply for permits to remove sea lions along the Columbia River and its tributaries. I am pleased to

see changes to this bill in its amended form, including the removal of language that would undermine the National Environmental Policy Act. The revised language is the result of negotiations with a coalition of local stakeholders, tribes, and agencies in Oregon and Washington State. I appreciate the Ranking Member's concerns that this bill only addresses one of the many threats facing our salmon and steelhead populations, but it is an important step toward mitigating the damage to the fish population. We must continue to address the threat of sea lion predation and avoid further loss of irreplaceable species of salmon and steelhead in our region. I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. GWEN MOORE

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 27, 2018

Ms. MOORE. Mr. Speaker, had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 295.

IN RECOGNITION OF CHANCELLOR DAVID O. BELCHER

HON. MARK MEADOWS

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 27, 2018

Mr. MEADOWS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the life and memory of Dr. David O. Belcher, Chancellor of Western Carolina University. Dr. Belcher was a light in his community, always encouraging and pouring into the people around him through his passion for higher education, embodiment of service, and Catamount pride.

A native of Barnwell, South Carolina, Dr. David O. Belcher began his career as a faculty member at Missouri State University. Prior to arriving at Western Carolina University, he was Provost and Vice Chancellor for academic affairs at the University of Arkansas at Little Rock. Dr. Belcher began his tenure as Chancellor at Western Carolina University on July 1st, 2011. This date will be etched in WCU's history as a starting point for accelerated growth and positive change for the institution and Western North Carolina. Dr. Belcher crafted a 2020 Vision program to focus on the Western Carolina University's future, along with a development plan that has been essential to tremendous campus growth and transformation.

Dr. Belcher cared for the faculty, staff, and students of WCU, and took an active role of service in Western North Carolina. Dr. Belcher served on the Board of Directors of the North Carolina Arboretum and the Asheville Chamber of Commerce. Dr. Belcher also served on the Board of Trustees of Harris Regional Hospital and Swain County Hospital. Dr. Belcher was an accomplished pianist and brought joy to many with his enthusiasm. His passion, determination, kindness, and ceaseless energy will forever be imprinted on the hearts of those who knew him.

Dr. David O. Belcher will forever be highly regarded, remembered and loved amongst his